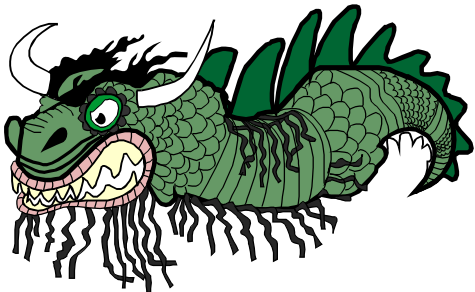


MESSAGE FROM THE SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH CHIEF

The holiday season is once again upon us and with that the end of another year and the start of a new millennium. A lot has happened in this last year and we expect more of the same as we head into the next year and coming century.

In 1999, the Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) was again very busy with the development and implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendment requirements and other program activities. Some of our accomplishments in 1999 include: approval of the Capacity Development Program and conducting of technical, financial, and managerial training activities; the preparations and stakeholder involvement in the development of an Operator Certification Program; the continuing development of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program and the issuance of our first loan (about \$7.9 million to the Maui Department of Water Supply); the submittal and approval of the Hawai'i Source Water Assessment Program Plan; continuing regulation revision and enforcement of the Underground Injection Control Regulations; the completion of the annual compliance report to EPA for 1998; provision of training and technical assistance to Community Water Systems in the preparation of the first Consumer Confidence Reports. The Safe Drinking Water Branch revised its regulations (Chapter 20) incorporating requirements for Phase II/V monitoring, capacity development, and consumer confidence reports and Y2K preparation.



In 2000 (the Chinese Year of the Dragon), the SDWB will continue the development of the operator certification program; implementation of the capacity development, drinking water state revolving fund, radon rule, and the source water assessment programs. We will also be preparing for the implementation of the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product Rule. Revisions to Chapter 20 will include amending the microbiological monitoring requirements to allow for the analysis of *E. coli*, as well as the

incorporation of the IESWTR and the Stage 1 D/DBPR. Revisions and updating of Chapter 19 - Emergency Plan for Safe Drinking Water is also expected in 2000. EPA is expected to require the implementation of or finalization of up to 8 new rules which will have a significant impact on the Safe Drinking Water Branch, as well as water purveyors. The year 2000 is expected to again provide a challenge to the staff of the Safe Drinking Water Branch and water purveyors.

As we close out 1999, we celebrate 25 years of the Safe Drinking Water Act and look towards the future. On behalf of the staff and management of Safe Drinking Water Branch, we wish you and your family a joyous Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. **See you all in 2000!!!**

*William Wong, P.E., Chief
Safe Drinking Water Branch*

MESSAGE FROM THE HAWAII PWSS PROJECT OFFICER



“Aloha” from EPA Region 9 in San Francisco. I'd like to add my congratulations to the public water systems of Hawai'i, as well as the Hawai'i Department of Health Safe Drinking Water Branch, for another year of hard work and accomplishments. Highlights for 1999 from EPA's perspective include:

- Ø the generation of Consumer Confidence Reports by the community water systems in Hawai'i, with a great deal of assistance from the SDWB;
- Ù increased collaboration between stakeholders in Hawai'i with an interest in operator certification, in the development of new Hawai'i operator certification requirements in order to meet new federal guidelines;
- Ù the development and beginning implementation of new technical, financial, and managerial capacity building programs, including training;
- Ù work on the first loans under the new drinking water state revolving fund (loan) program;
- Ù SDWB, contractor and stakeholder work on developing a source water assessment program plan for Hawai'i, and beginning work on the first source water assessments.

With all these new programs, let us not forget what is truly the most important activity, the routine, daily, operation and maintenance of all the public water systems in Hawai'i by water system personnel - treatment plant operators, distribution system personnel, plumbers, electricians, system managers, administrative support - i.e, the people who really ensure that the people of Hawai'i are provided with a safe, potable, and abundant water supply. Congratulations, have a safe and happy holiday season, and good luck in the new millennium!

Barry Pollock, USEPA
Hawai'i PWSS Program Project Officer



CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT --- REMINDER

This is just a reminder to all Community Water Systems (CWSs) that, under the Consumer Confidence Report Rule, they were required to submit a copy of their final consumer confidence reports to the Safe Drinking Water Branch at the same time it was delivered to their consumers or by October 19, 1999. CWSs that have not yet submitted a copy should do so as soon as possible.

CWSs are also required to prepare a certification that they have prepared and delivered the consumer confidence report. Water purveyors must submit this certification to the Safe Drinking Water Branch by January 19, 2000.

COMING IN THE YEAR 2000

The year 2000 expects to be another busy one for the Environmental Protection Agency, the Safe Drinking Water Branch and water purveyors. The rules expected to be finalized in the year 2000 include (but are not limited to):

Groundwater Rule - The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) now attributes a **larger** number of illnesses to the drinking water. Estimates of 1 million persons and more have been made of illnesses caused by poor drinking water quality. This rule is currently under development by the EPA and is intended to define conditions for which disinfection of ground waters will be required. At the present time, only water suppliers which use surface water sources are required to disinfect the water they serve.

Radon Rule and Radionuclide Rule - Under the Radon Rule the target contaminant is radon, a colorless, odorless gas that accumulates in buildings. Radon is believed to be the second leading cause of lung cancer, far behind smoking. Even though only approximately 1% of a person's radon exposure is from water, EPA has decided that it will attempt to control all that they can control (they cannot control the other 99% which is from air). The Radon Rule has been proposed and is now out for public comments. Under the Radionuclide Rule the target contaminants are gross alpha, uranium, radium 226, radium 228, and possibly radium 224. EPA is proposing a concentration based standard as opposed to a radioactivity based standard. A "Notice of Data Availability" will be released shortly and will be followed in 2000 (projected for November) by the final rule promulgation.

Arsenic Rule - The National Academy of Science has determined that arsenic has health effects at significantly lower levels than the current drinking water MCL. EPA is working on a regulation which will lower the arsenic standard.

Public Right to Know Requirements - These requirements are aimed at providing the public more information about their drinking water. New regulations will focus on public notification requirements.

Plus stay tuned for more information on the capacity development, operator certification, drinking water state revolving fund, and source water assessment programs; also upcoming will be information on: implementation of the interim enhanced surface water treatment and the stage 1 disinfectant/disinfection by-product rules; revisions to Chapter 20 (including amendments to the microbiological monitoring requirements to allow for the analysis of E. coli;) updating of Chapter 19 - Emergency Plan for Safe Drinking Water; and other issues and topics during the year 2000. We hope you have enjoyed reading "The Water Spot" and hope that we can continue to provide you valuable information regarding the drinking water program in Hawai'i.

ARE YOU READY FOR Y2K

In order to keep track of Y2K related problems affecting water systems, please call the Safe Drinking Water Branch should you have any Y2K problems that affect the quality of your potable water or ability to provide safe drinking water.

You can contact the Safe Drinking Water Branch during working hours at (808) 586-4258 or FAX at (808) 586-4370. After work hours please call (808) 247-2191 and the operator will be able to contact someone from the Safe Drinking Water Branch.

The Water Spot is published by the Safe Drinking Water Branch, Environmental Management Division of the Hawai'i State Department of Health and is distributed to water purveyors, water system operators, staff, consultants, and other interested parties.

*The Water Spot may also be viewed on the Safe Drinking Water Branch's web site at:
<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/eh/sdwb>*

*Please send your
suggestions, ideas,
questions or
comments to:*

THE WATER SPOT NEWSLETTER
*Safe Drinking Water Branch
State Department of Health
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814*

OR *Fax us at (808) 586-4370, Attn: "THE WATER SPOT"*

SDWB WEB SITE:
<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/eh/sdwb>
HISWAP WEB SITE:
<http://www.aloha.net/~will/hiswap.html>



BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
Governor of Hawaii

BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health

GARY GILL
*Deputy Director for
Environmental Health*

The Water Spot (Holiday '99)
Safe Drinking Water Branch
Environmental Management Division
Hawai'i Department of Health
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 308
Honolulu HI 96814

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PLEASE BE SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON – "DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE".